

I am an emergency veterinarian working at one of the VCA divested hospitals (VCA Veterinary Referral Associates in Gaithersburg, MD). I find the terms of this agreement unacceptable and it has created a financial hardship for me in a hugely impactful way. I speak for myself in this matter, but it does affect many other staff members (veterinarians and technicians) at this hospital alone.

I am a full time emergency veterinarian at VRA. However, prior to this acquisition and divestiture, I was contracted as a part time employee at 5 other VCA hospitals in the Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia area. I do a large amount of relief general practice and emergency work at these hospitals. This is done to both to help out those hospitals in desperate need of coverage and personally, is a substantial part of my income and living wages. I work on average 3-4 shifts a month beyond my normal shifts to help supplement my income. These shifts are not just done for “extra” money, but truly needed to help pay my significant student debt and mortgage in a high cost of living area.

I have been informed that because of this statement: “First, the Consent Agreement prevents Mars for a period of one year from contracting with any specialty or emergency veterinarian affiliated with a divested clinic”, I am no longer allowed to work at any of these clinics as a relief veterinarian. Not only has this now created an issue with shifts I have already agreed upon, but it now significantly decreases my monthly income. I was previously contracted as a part time employee at all of these clinics long before any divestiture and acquisition. I think this is not only a large oversight in trying to make an “ironclad” agreement with no gray area for solicitation, but it also unfairly terminates previous contracts. I am not trying to have a full time job at those locations, only to be able to continue to do the relief work I have been doing. Petvet has not offered any sort of compensation to make up for these lost wages and in reality, I do not expect to have to make up all of it. But, I do ask an addendum to be made to allow provisions for veterinarians already under contract with other VCA hospitals to be able to continue to do their job. I am not even asking for new VCA hospitals to do relief at, just to honor my prior part time relief contracts.